

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

in cooperation with  
**Cotton Economic Research and**  
**Bureau of Business Research of**  
**The University of Texas at Austin**

CLIMATOGRAPHY OF THE UNITED STATES NO. 20-41

LATITUDE 30° 09' N  
 LONGITUDE 96° 24' W  
 ELEV. (GROUND) 353 ft.

**CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY**

STATION BRENHAM, TEXAS

MEANS AND EXTREMES FOR PERIOD 1942-1971

Month	Temperature (°F)									** Mean degree days	Precipitation Totals (Inches)						Mean number of days						Month	
	Means			Extremes			Mean	Greatest daily	Year		Snow, Sleet			Precip. .10 inch or more	Temperatures									
	Daily maximum	Daily minimum	Monthly	Record highest	Year	Record lowest					Year	Mean	Maximum monthly		Year	Greatest Depth	Year	90° and above	Max.		Min.			
																			32° and below	32° and below	0° and below	0° and below		
(a)	30	30	30	30		30																		
Jan	60.1	39.1	49.6	85	1971	1	1949	507	2.78	3.11	1949	0.3	8.7	1949	0	5	0	*	10	0	Jan			
Feb	64.4	42.4	53.4	89	1954	1	1949	360	3.12	3.13	1949	0.3	8.3	1960	0	6	0	*	5	0	Feb			
Mar	70.9	47.4	59.2	97	1946	17	1943	235	2.46	7.38	1946	0			4	*	0	2	0	Mar				
Apr	79.3	57.4	68.4	98	1951	37	1961	45	3.71	5.15	1968	0			5	1	0	0	0	Apr				
May	85.8	64.4	75.1	98	1967+	42	1954	3	4.43	6.16	1965	0			5	10	0	0	0	May				
Jun	92.2	70.4	81.3	104	1967	54	1955	*	3.24	4.91	1960	0			4	24	0	0	0	Jun				
Jul	95.8	72.6	84.2	108	1954	58	1967	0	1.90	4.50	1943	0			3	29	0	0	0	Jul				
Aug	96.6	72.5	84.6	110	1962	58	1967	0	3.09	8.41	1947	0			4	29	0	0	0	Aug				
Sep	90.4	67.6	79.0	105	1963+	43	1942	2	3.97	6.83	1961	0			6	20	0	0	0	Sep				
Oct	82.8	57.8	70.3	98	1952	32	1957	36	3.17	4.17	1959	0			4	6	0	*	0	Oct				
Nov	71.7	47.8	59.8	91	1969	25	1959	198	3.72	4.20	1947	0			6	*	0	2	0	Nov				
Dec	63.7	41.9	52.8	84	1956+	18	1950	382	3.37	3.17	1965	T	T	1951+	0	6	0	*	6	0	Dec			
Year	79.5	56.8	68.2	110	Aug. 1962	1	Feb. 1949+	1768	38.96	8.41	Aug. 1947	0.6	8.3	Jan. 1949	-	58	119	*	25	0	Year			

(a) Average length of record, years.

+ Also on earlier dates, months, or years.

T Trace, an amount too small to measure.

\* Less than one half.

\*\* Base 65°F

THE CLIMATE OF BRENHAM, TEXAS

Brenham, located on the rolling prairie of the Gulf Coastal Plain, 53 miles west-northwest of Houston, was founded on land of an original Spanish land grant. German emigrants began settling the area in the late 1860s. Today Brenham is the county seat of Washington County and commercial center for a large farming area. Industry includes cotton and feed mills, a foundry, bottling works and furniture factories. Blinn College, Texas' first country-wide junior college, founded in 1883, is located here.

Washington County is rolling prairie of sandy loam and alluvial soils, drained by the Brazos River and its tributaries. Agricultural income is from beef cattle, hogs, dairying, poultry, cotton and grains. Business includes agribusiness, tourism and manufacturing.

For recreation, Somerville Reservoir is located 15 miles away, Washington-on-the-Brazos State Park is about 19 miles northeast, and Farm-to-Market roads 389 and 2502 to Burton furnish a beautiful pastoral drive. Hunting and Fishing also provide recreation.

The climate of Brenham is humid subtropical with hot summers. During the spring, summer and fall months, Tropical Maritime air masses predominate, and largely control the climate of the region. In winter and early springs, surges of Polar Canadian air are frequent, causing sudden drops in temperature, produce a variety of weather, and thus give the climate a more continental flavor. There is a wide range between annual temperature extremes, also characteristic of a continental environment. Total annual precipitation averages 38.96 inches, fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. Mid-summer is the driest period of the year. Annual rainfall has varied from a maximum of 66.39 inches in 1919 to a minimum of 18.79 inches in 1954.

The prevailing winds at Brenham are south-southeasterly almost year-round. North-northwesterly winds predominate in January. The strongest persistent winds occur in March and April. Mean

relative humidity, at noon, c.s.t., is estimated at 63 percent in January, 62 percent in April, and 53 percent in both July and October. In an average year, the Brenham area receives 49 percent of the total possible sunshine in winter, 55 percent in spring, 73 percent in summer and 66 percent in the fall.

Winter: Temperatures are mild and periods of cold weather do not last longer than two or three days. There is often considerable morning cloudiness which breaks up to form partly cloudy skies during the afternoons. Precipitation most often falls in the form of light, steady rain. Snows are quite rare and years may pass without so much as a trace. When snow does occur, it usually melts as it falls, with little or no accumulation on the ground. The lowest temperature of record is -2°F, and occurred January 18 and 19, 1930.

Spring: The season furnishes a variety of weather, particularly in March. Warm and cool spells of short duration follow each other in rapid succession. Thundershower activity increases significantly in April and reaches a peak in May. Occasionally, late spring or early summer thunderstorms are accompanied by damaging winds. Spring is a pleasant time of year.

Fall: Temperatures continue rather warm through September. Precipitation increases as cool fronts begin to penetrate the area once again and an occasional tropical depression moves northward from the Gulf of Mexico. Moderate temperatures, low wind velocities, and long uninterrupted periods of fair weather make the fall season ideally suited for all types of outdoor activities except swimming. Fall is perhaps the most pleasant season of the year.

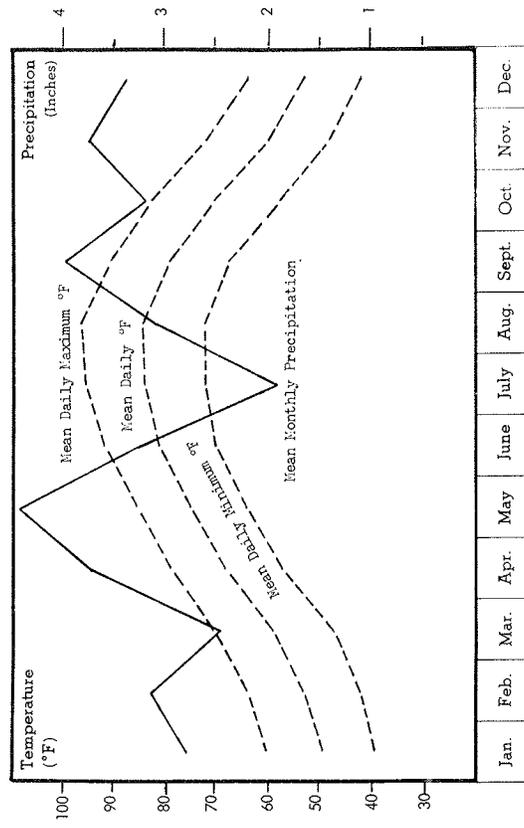
The warm season (freeze free period) at Brenham is 277 days. The mean dates of the last occurrence of 32 F or below in the spring, and the first occurrence of 32°F or below in the fall, are March 3 and December 4, respectively.

BRENNHAM, TEXAS

Total Precipitation (Inches)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	0.42	0.11	0.59	7.58	3.46	3.31	0.08	5.43	5.64	5.70	0.61	2.69	35.62
1943	3.07	0.51	2.87	0.25	6.61	0.89	8.24	0.71	2.89	1.57	3.63	2.83	33.67
1944	6.96	3.65	4.98	7.12	1.18	1.18	0.79	6.91	1.73	0.33	9.33	4.50	48.04
1945	2.98	4.60	8.17	3.42	5.46	5.24	1.77	10.67	1.68	3.68	1.29	2.82	51.78
1946	5.91	2.83	9.65	2.94	5.76	4.57	1.36	3.83	3.47	3.34	7.94	2.19	53.79
1947	4.24	1.01	2.27	1.74	4.43	3.88	2.45	10.56	0.37	0.31	5.67	4.27	41.20
1948	3.14	5.62	2.24	1.81	3.29	0.50	1.68	1.43	1.43	0.16	2.03	0.89	20.33
1949	7.45	2.84	3.22	6.41	3.64	6.44	1.63	1.05	5.06	8.09	0.29	6.30	51.82
1950	2.86	4.80	1.33	7.67	2.66	7.06	1.07	3.50	5.29	0.42	0.58	1.91	39.15
1951	0.94	2.10	2.95	0.85	3.50	2.62	3.11	1.41	5.19	2.03	3.74	1.54	29.98
1952	1.52	2.87	2.00	4.89	6.82	0.43	3.01	0.88	2.72	0.02	7.84	4.90	37.90
1953	1.60	4.29	0.45	4.15	5.26	2.21	1.50	6.36	2.14	3.84	3.97	3.95	39.72
1954	1.37	0.41	0.36	2.35	3.32	0.51	1.50	1.27	0.24	2.88	2.61	1.97	18.79
1955	2.26	4.89	4.32	2.79	3.95	4.22	0.03	4.97	0.87	0.34	0.92	2.31	27.97
1956	2.05	2.55	1.31	2.16	2.50	1.72	0.24	0.92	0.69	1.94	1.93	5.08	23.09
1957	1.90	2.01	5.01	9.22	2.37	4.43	0.81	0.43	7.54	6.71	5.24	2.25	48.02
1958	4.49	2.52	1.61	2.92	3.42	0.87	3.10	1.01	5.28	4.07	3.91	2.28	35.78
1959	0.20	3.67	1.84	8.34	6.25	3.24	1.06	3.32	2.25	7.05	3.34	4.22	44.48
1960	2.65	5.86	0.71	7.18	0.57	9.52	5.60	4.33	0.26	9.21	7.08	5.18	58.15
1961	3.16	6.74	1.48	2.77	1.20	9.26	4.71	1.43	10.85	1.38	7.33	2.34	52.65
1962	2.51	0.73	1.02	2.86	0.83	4.73	1.00	0.38	4.60	3.87	4.37	6.06	32.96
1963	1.45	2.23	0.95	2.40	2.85	2.40	3.77	0.48	1.52	0.38	4.39	3.01	24.02
1964	3.52	3.20	4.26	2.20	3.74	2.52	1.36	1.14	4.84	2.22	4.08	2.13	35.21
1965	4.46	6.03	1.08	2.34	14.77	1.37	0.41	3.59	3.44	2.82	6.17	7.23	53.71
1966	3.01	4.70	1.37	3.18	5.50	0.33	0.78	2.89	7.13	1.14	1.03	2.24	33.30
1967	1.14	1.36	1.40	2.37	5.26	0.03	1.12	4.63	4.35	3.87	2.75	29.08	58.37
1968	5.20	1.50	2.40	5.87	8.52	8.98	4.52	1.35	7.50	2.72	6.09	3.72	56.37
1969	1.02	5.64	4.71	5.16	2.81	1.53	1.22	3.72	6.20	4.05	2.22	3.17	41.45
1970	1.81	2.59	4.84	3.48	7.97	0.02	0.57	0.63	9.70	7.72	0.56	0.73	40.62
1971	0.19	1.89	0.25	1.10	2.76	1.76	1.62	4.27	3.66	3.21	1.92	5.73	28.36

Monthly Temperatures and Precipitation



BRENNHAM, TEXAS

Average Temperature (°F)

Year	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Ann'l
1942	64.1	53.6	55.3	64.6	76.2	77.0	78.2	81.9	75.2	69.4	62.6	53.1	65.9
1943	48.6	56.9	54.8	69.4	74.9	80.2	81.4	81.8	74.6	66.2	55.8	48.1	66.1
1944	50.5	57.0	56.8	66.2	70.4	79.6	83.4	83.0	76.0	68.1	60.0	49.2	66.7
1945	50.5	56.1	66.6	68.0	74.0	81.3	84.2	84.8	79.8	68.2	65.4	50.0	69.1
1946	49.4	55.4	63.6	71.0	76.2	79.2	84.4	83.6	78.4	71.4	60.0	55.8	69.1
1947	48.4	47.2	54.7	67.8	75.1	82.2	83.2	84.6	80.1	76.0	57.4	53.1	67.4
1948	44.0	51.6	58.4	67.4	76.5	84.2	85.6	87.2	79.6	70.5	59.4	56.3	68.8
1949	47.0	55.6	60.4	64.3	71.5	82.5	83.3	84.6	78.2	72.9	61.9	55.0	68.7
1950	57.1	57.0	58.9	66.9	74.5	82.1	86.1	87.9	80.7	71.9	56.9	54.6	69.0
1951	51.6	52.8	62.3	66.9	71.5	82.9	81.8	84.3	79.5	66.2	58.9	50.5	68.4
1952	59.8	57.4	58.9	64.5	72.9	81.8	84.6	84.3	78.6	71.4	57.9	48.6	68.8
1953	55.1	52.5	66.9	66.0	75.4	84.7	86.3	86.1	82.5	73.5	59.0	55.4	70.1
1954	52.8	59.6	59.6	71.5	72.4	82.9	86.3	86.1	81.3	71.6	59.1	52.3	69.1
1955	51.3	53.3	63.1	71.3	78.0	79.4	84.7	83.5	81.4	73.7	57.7	56.0	69.6
1956	50.6	55.5	59.6	67.0	78.4	82.4	86.9	85.7	81.4	76.9	65.4	58.1	68.2
1957	50.8	60.0	58.4	65.9	75.5	80.5	86.0	84.8	76.9	65.4	58.1	55.5	68.2
1958	48.1	47.7	55.1	67.4	75.8	83.3	84.7	86.6	80.2	68.4	61.1	49.0	67.5
1959	47.0	52.8	58.2	64.6	77.3	81.3	83.8	83.4	80.1	70.0	53.9	53.5	67.2
1960	49.1	47.5	53.7	69.7	72.8	82.1	83.4	82.1	78.5	71.9	60.9	49.3	66.8
1961	45.4	54.6	63.3	65.5	75.0	78.6	81.0	81.0	78.4	69.1	57.3	52.8	66.8
1962	45.2	61.5	56.9	67.4	76.4	81.3	84.7	87.8	80.4	73.8	58.8	51.2	68.8
1963	42.7	50.8	63.2	73.0	77.0	82.8	84.9	86.8	81.1	74.8	62.0	45.2	68.7
1964	49.5	47.8	58.6	69.6	76.9	81.0	84.7	86.5	80.0	67.2	63.1	52.8	68.1
1965	53.9	49.8	53.9	71.4	75.9	81.0	84.5	84.2	80.6	67.9	66.2	55.4	68.7
1966	45.8	49.5	60.1	69.1	73.9	79.9	84.7	83.3	78.3	68.1	63.9	51.3	67.5
1967	51.3	51.0	65.4	75.0	74.8	82.8	84.1	82.9	76.3	68.8	60.8	51.3	68.7
1968	48.4	48.8	57.0	68.3	74.8	79.1	81.2	83.8	76.1	71.2	57.3	51.2	66.4
1969	52.5	53.2	53.8	68.8	72.4	80.8	87.4	86.6	79.3	70.7	59.2	55.5	68.4
1970	44.9	52.6	56.1	69.6	73.4	79.8	84.2	85.9	79.5	67.1	57.2	60.5	67.5
1971	55.8	55.2	60.2	67.8	74.5	83.1	86.2	81.9	78.9	72.2	61.0	57.7	69.5

STATION HISTORY

A climatological station was established at Brenham in October 1885. In April 1888, the station was located at a site three-quarters of a mile southwest of the post office, then on October 1, 1944, the station was relocated to its present site, one mile south of the post office, at the home of the observer at 1608 South Park. Mr. W. G. Stein, the present Cooperative Weather Observer was appointed October 1, 1944. Station equipment consists of a cotton region shelter, maximum and minimum thermometers, and a standard, eight-inch, non-reading rain gauge. Daily temperature and precipitation data are published monthly in Climatological Data-Texas. Station index number: 41-1048-07.

Climatologist for Texas  
National Weather Service  
3600 Manor Road, Austin, Texas 78723  
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